

Applicant : Tsutomu Takiguchi et al.
Serial No. : 10/758,419
Filed : January 15, 2004
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Attorney's Docket No.: 10973-114001 / K43-
163800M/MKO

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached replacement sheets of drawings includes changes to Figs. 4 and 5 and replaces the original sheets including Figs. 4 and 5.

In Figure 4, please replace the reference numeral "419" pointing to "stoppers" with reference numeral "491."

In Figure 5, please replace two instances of the reference numeral "419" pointing to "stoppers" with reference numeral "491."

Please note that Figure 18, though at issue in the Office Action, remains unchanged and is not attached, as the reference numeral "419" pointing to "opposed rib" is correct.

Attachments following last page of this Amendment:

Replacement Sheet (2 pages)
Annotated Sheet Showing Change(s) (2 pages)

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are pending. As required by the Examiner, a complete listing of the amended claims, together with the status identifiers, appears on the foregoing pages.

In accordance with the Examiner's recommendations, Applicant has amended the following:

- Claim 4, line 12, claim 7, line 12, and claim 9, lines 12 and 18 now recite "casing" in place of "housing," as per Examiner's recommendation. This obviates the Examiner's objection with respect to the claims. Additionally, Applicant acknowledges with thanks the Examiner's statement that with these changes claim 9 would be allowable.
- Drawings 4 and 5 have been amended as described above to show "stoppers" as reference numeral "491," in place of "419." Drawing 18 remains unchanged, correctly showing "opposed rib" as reference numeral "419." This obviates the Examiner's objection with respect to the drawings.
- Pages 25 and 33 of the specification have been amended as described above in accordance with the Examiner's recommendation. Page 33, line 17 now correctly recites reference numeral "426" for "rotor." In addition, "opposed rib" is now correctly recited as reference numeral "419" on pages 25 and 33, and "stoppers" is now correctly recited as reference numeral "491" on pages 25 and 33. This obviates the Examiner's objection with respect to the disclosure.

The rejection of claims 1-8 over Hayami should be withdrawn

In the Office Action, claims 1-8 were rejected as being either anticipated by, or unpatentable over, U.S. Patent Application No. 2004/0085780 (Hayami). Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

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Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are entitled to the priority date of the Japanese foreign filing (i.e., January 17, 2003). This date is earlier than the U.S. filing date of the Hayami Patent (October 30, 2003). As such, the Hayami patent application is not properly asserted against the pending claims.

Enclosed is an English-language translation of the Japanese priority documents.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

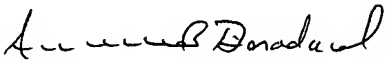
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Respectfully submitted,

Date: 3/15/04



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This exploded perspective view illustrates the assembly of a device 400. The main components are shown in their relative positions as they would be assembled. At the top is a rectangular cover 410 with a central opening 411 and side tabs 413. Below the cover is a base 414 with a central opening 412 and side tabs 415. A central shaft 421 passes through the cover and base. Various gears and rollers are mounted on this shaft, including a large gear 445, a smaller gear 448, and a roller 443. A motor or actuator 422 is connected to the shaft via a gear 424. A spring 423 is also shown. A printed circuit board 43 is positioned below the gears, featuring a connector 45 and various components labeled H1-H3. A hand-drawn number '491' is visible near the bottom left of the assembly.

FIG. 5

